1.0 Introduction and Project Description

1.1 Introduction and Project Location:

The Bolsa Chica Lowlands is located in the Bolsa Gap bounded by Bolsa Chica Mesa on the northwest, Huntington Mesa on the southeast, and Pacific Coast Highway and Pacific Ocean to the west, in an unincorporated area of northwestern Orange County. The Bolsa Chica Lowlands is one of the largest potential coastal saltwater marsh complexes located in southern California. Substantial portions of the Bolsa Chica Lowlands have been disturbed by mineral resource extraction and other activities in the area, such as construction of the east Garden Grove-Wintersburg Flood Control Channel and diking system. The cumulative result of these activities has been a significant change in local hydrology and tidal flow in this area, and a related decrease in the abundance and diversity of native vegetation and wildlife. A portion of the Bolsa Chica Lowlands is currently managed by the California Department of Fish and Game as the "Bolsa Chica Ecological Reserve." Although the Lowlands area is degraded from historic conditions, the Reserve is still home to several rare, threatened, and endangered species.

Over the last several decades, local, State, and federal resource agencies have worked to restore the Bolsa Chica Lowlands. The Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration Project (Restoration Project) was subsequently proposed and examined under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) through preparation of an Environmental Impact Report/Environmental Impact Statement (EIR/EIS) SCH #2000071068, and was approved in 2002. The United States Fish & Wildlife Service (USFWS) and U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) were the lead federal agencies and the California State Lands Commission (CSLC) was the lead State agency for the Restoration Project. USFWS has been identified as the primary party leading the construction of Phase 1 of the Lowlands Restoration Project. The intent of the restoration is to restore the ecological function of the existing wetland area by increasing tidal influence and open water habitat by dredging a tidal basin within the existing wetlands and connecting it directly to the Pacific Ocean. Restoration of the Bolsa Chica Lowlands consists of two key phases. Phase I is scheduled to be initiated in 2004, while Phase II is scheduled for 2024 or at that time when the oilfields have reached their productive limit and are abandoned.

Phase I of the Lowlands Restoration Project involves dredging and flooding a portion of the wetlands, and will affect an approximately 0.9 mile segment of Line 1228 that extends from Road 70 to the south and Rattlesnake Road to the north (Figures 1 and 2). This section of Line 1228 is located in the designated "full tidal" feature of the Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration Project, from which 2.7 million cubic yards of material will be excavated to create a full tidal basin. As described in the Restoration Project EIR/EIS (2001), "Excavation within the area would be the minimum necessary to achieve an inlet bottom depth and subtidal slough about -6.8 feet Mean Sea Level

(MSL) (-4 feet Mean Lower Water Level (MLLW)). Oil wells, well pads, and access roads would all be removed from within this area prior to excavation."

It is the purpose and need of the Line 1228 Relocation Project to remove the designated section from the Phase 1 area described above in conjunction with the above described activities and the necessary excavation. Although such removal was not a specific component of the Restoration Project EIR/EIS, its impacts, because the activities are proposed to be conducted as part of the extensive excavation required by the Restoration Project, are addressed within the bounds of the larger project analyzed in the 2001 Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration Project EIR/EIS. Mitigation specified in the EIR/EIS is therefore applicable, as noted herein, to the removal of this section of Line 1228. Accordingly, the focus of this analysis will be on the potential impacts of the activities associated with the construction and operation of the pipeline segment necessary to reroute Line 1228 outside of the Phase 1 area of the Restoration Project, as such impacts are not addressed in the Restoration Project EIR/EIS. Such EIR/EIS and this Proposed Mitigated Negative Declaration, in total, constitute the environmental documentation for the Project.

Other environmental permitting relevant to Line 1228 in the Phase I area is also applicable and includes the following: California Coastal Commission (CCC) Final Consistency Determination (CD-061-01, January 8, 2002), USACE Section 404 (9700-193000-RLK, August 14, 2002), and Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) 401 Certification (April 23, 2002). The specific alignment for the relocation of Line 1228 to an alignment outside of the Phase I Restoration area has not been reviewed to date under CEQA/NEPA, nor has it received relevant environmental permits. The specific alignment and actions necessary for this relocation of Line 1228 are the proposed Project.

Line 1228 currently receives gas from natural gas producers (AERA Energy and Nuevo Energy Corporation) and transports it to electric generating plants (Los Alamitos and Huntington Beach). Line 1228 is owned by the city of Long Beach (City) and is operated, maintained and leased by Southern California Gas Company (SCG) from the City. The 0.9-mile segment of Line 1228 that must be relocated is on a portion of the Lowlands that is owned by the CSLC. The City received a letter from the CSLC in 2002 that requires the City to remove all of their facilities, including the gas line, from the Phase I Restoration area by October 2003. Subsequently, the date was changed to October 2004. In order to comply with the CSLC letter, the City has retained SCG to manage the relocation of Line 1228.

1.2 Project Description:

SCG is proposing to realign portions of Line 1228 to accommodate Phase I of the Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration Project (Figures 1 and 2). This pipeline relocation involves installation of approximately 4,700 linear feet (0.9 miles) of new 12" diameter pipe line adjacent to existing unpaved and elevated roads (Road 70 and Rattlesnake Road) and within an existing utility corridor within the Lowlands complex.

Construction will be concurrent with, or immediately precede, Phase I restoration activities by the USFWS construction contractor for the Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration Project. The pipeline relocation will require approximately six weeks to complete. Relocation of Line 1228 is required to be completed by October 1, 2004, to meet the Phase I Lowlands Restoration Project schedule.

The removal of the existing Line 1228 pipeline segment is the second component, as to timing, of the Line 1228 Relocation Project (Project). The removal involves approximately 4,700 linear feet (0.9 miles) of existing multidiameter pipe line that crosses through the wetlands. Removal of the existing pipeline will occur only after the new section of Line 1228 has been relocated outside of the Phase I Restoration area. Due to the close coordination required between the pipeline relocation that constitutes this Project, and the pipeline removal, which is a subset of the greater Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration Project, the actions associated with the pipeline removal are discussed separately in Section 1.2.2*,* Pipeline Removal.

Standard Measures Implemented. The following standard practices will be implemented during all phases of the relocation Project to avoid and minimize potential impacts to the environment.

Implementation of BMPs. Erosion control/sedimentation Best Management Practices (BMPs) shall be used to control dust and sedimentation impacts to coastal waters during construction. SCG implements standard BMPs per the attached *Water Quality and Construction Best Management Practice Handbook,* December 2002 Appendix B). BMPs anticipated to be used include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Placement of sand bags around the excavation trench and material stockpiles, and covering of stockpiled materials if stockpiles are to be left overnight or for a period of 12 hours or more. Sand bags shall be removed when Project is completed. (BMP 1-05);
- No construction materials, debris, waste, oil, or liquid chemical shall be placed or stored where it may be subject to wind, rain, wave, or tidal erosion or dispersion. (BMP 2-01 through 2-08);
- Nonessential machinery or construction materials shall not be allowed at any time in wetland areas. (BMP 3-08 and 4-01);
- All stockpiles and construction materials shall be covered, enclosed on all sides, and to the extent feasible, shall not be stored in contact with the soil. Spoil piles will be placed directly adjacent to the excavation area on roadway or upland areas that are vegetated with nonnative iceplant. Areas where pickleweed is present will be avoided. (BMP 1-08 and 2-01);
- Any and all debris resulting from the construction activities shall be removed from the site within 24 hours of completion of construction to prevent the accumulation of sediment and other debris that may be discharged into coastal waters. Specific lay down areas outside of the construction area will

be designated to contain debris and pipe for future proper disposal. (BMP 2-01 and 2-04);

- Sediment from the wetlands other than the material generated to uncover the buried pipeline shall not be used for construction material; and
- All debris and trash shall be disposed of in the proper trash and recycling receptacles at the end of each construction day. (BMP 2-04).

Avoidance of Biological Resources. During all phases of Project construction, close coordination with the USFWS construction contractor (during pipeline removal), for the Lowlands Restoration Project and SCG, Aera Energy, and the regulatory agencies will occur to avoid or minimize impacts to onsite biological resources (nesting birds, protected plants), minimize impacts to native pickleweed plants, and to streamline implementation of permit conditions and the construction activities regulated by them. The specifics of potential biological resources onsite are discussed in more detail in Section 2.3.4, Biological Resources.

Preconstruction surveys and monitoring will be conducted to avoid or minimize impacts to biological resources onsite, communicate the approved work and pickleweed mitigation area to the crew, and document compliance. The following monitoring conditions will be implemented: 1) a preconstruction survey for nesting birds prior to construction; 2) tailgate education session for crew prior to construction; 3) flagging of the work area, spoil area, and iceplant removal area; 4) a qualified biological monitor will be present during excavation activities to ensure that nesting birds are avoided, pickleweed impacts are minimized, and to document the total extent of the impact to pickleweed associated with relocation work; and 5) after the excavation phase of construction, biological monitoring will occur as necessary to document permit compliance.

Minimize Impacts to Cultural Resources. No significant cultural resources are anticipated to be uncovered during Project implementation due to the historic disturbance along the Project footprint. The documentation in the Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration Project EIR/EIS supports this finding. The following measures will be taken, however, to avoid impacts to cultural resources in the event that any are uncovered. Crews will receive preconstruction training regarding cultural resources and an archaeological monitor will be present during all ground excavation activities. In the event cultural resources or human remains are encountered during any phase of the proposed Project, work will be stopped until the find can be assessed by a qualified archaeologist, Native American representative, or County coroner, as appropriate. The specifics of potential cultural resources onsite are discussed in more detail in Section 2.3.5, Cultural Resources.

Minimize Human Health Risk/Remediate Hazardous Materials. Extensive soil sampling was conducted within the greater Bolsa Chica Lowlands as part of the EIR/EIS preparation for the Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration Project. Several sites were sampled along the alignment of the pipeline relocation for metals, Total Extractable Petroleum Hydrocarbons (TEPH), Waste Oil (WO), Volatile Organic Compounds

(VOCs), Polychlorinated Biphenyls (PCBs), Organochlorine Pesticides and Herbicides, and Organophosphorous Insecticides. Only TEPH and WO concentrations exceeding the CSLC cleanup standard of 1,000 parts per million (ppm) were identified as present in surface soils (not at depth) along the Project alignment in surface soils (not at depth) (Jack Fancher, December 2003; Tables 2-3, 2-5, and 2-13 of the 2000 Ecological Risk Assessment, for the Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration Project). The excavated soils in this area will be handled as directed by the Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration Project Steering Committee, in accordance with the AERA Energy/USFWS clean-up plan to be implemented during the Phase I Lowlands Restoration Project conducted by the USFWS contractor. Material excavated from the footing holes will be temporarily stored at a secure area for confining potentially contaminated material until it is moved into the appropriate final destination determined by the USFWS contractors.

No other contaminants exceeding local, State, and federal thresholds are anticipated to be encountered during the relocation of Line 1228. In the event soils are determined to be contaminated or otherwise not suitable for backfill, they will be managed by the USFWS contractor in accordance with federal, State, and local requirements and disposed of at a facility authorized to accept it. Soil borings will be monitored by the USFWS contractor who will visually inspect the removed soils for adverse staining signs, detectable odors, and using a photoionization detector [PID]. Any such soils suspected of contamination will be segregated and removed for proper management by the USFWS contractor in accordance with federal, State, and local requirements and disposed of, as necessary, at a facility authorized to accept it. Non-contaminated soils not suitable for backfill will also be managed by the USFWS contractor and used for other purposes. Construction crews will also minimize potential human health risk by holding tailgate meetings, and implementing the standard Illness Injury and Prevention Plans (IIPP), and General Site Safety Plans. SCG Standard BMP 2-05 provides direction for hazardous material management, if such material is encountered during pipeline relocation. The specifics of potential hazards onsite are discussed in more detail in Section 2.3.7, Hazards and Hazardous Materials.

Protect Access. Ongoing coordination with AERA Energy and the resource agencies will occur over the duration of Project construction to minimize impacts to traffic movement. Given the size of the work area along existing road edges, access during construction is not anticipated to be significantly affected as half the width of the road should be open to traffic during most of the construction effort. Roads intersecting the project area are also anticipated to remain open during construction. Any road closures necessary (such as when the pipeline route crosses a road) will be coordinated with AERA Energy and others to minimize disruption to ongoing maintenance, safety, and Restoration Project activities. The specifics of access and transportation issues in general are discussed in more detail in Section 2.3.15, Transportation/Traffic.

1.2.1 Pipeline Relocation. Discussions between the City and the CSLC resulted in a phased approach for the removal of Line 1228 from the Bolsa Chica Lowlands Phase 1 Restoration area. For the first phase, it was agreed the new

replacement pipeline will be aligned with the eastern edge of Road 70 and the southern edge of Rattlesnake Road within an existing utility corridor. Both of these roads are just outside the boundary of the Phase I Restoration area (Figure 2). The City is in the process of obtaining a Right of Way (ROW) agreement with the CSLC for the Project.

Either during or upon completion of this Project, all mineral extraction equipment and appurtenant structures, such as the affected gas pipeline segment, will be moved from the Lowlands Phase 1 Restoration area. As discussed above, the removal of the existing segment of Line 1228 for decommissioning is not part of this documentation. Because close coordination is required between CSLC, the resource agencies, SCG, and Aera Energy during this project, the associated activity is discussed in Section 1.2.2 Pipeline Removal.

The relocated pipeline is to have approximately 4,200 feet (0.8 miles) of pipe located above ground on newly constructed supports (caissons/sleepers), and 500 feet (0.09 miles) of pipe below ground. The work zone for the relocation will extend up to 40' wide adjacent to the length of the proposed alignment. Total ground disturbance associated with excavation activities for the relocation is anticipated to be 15,460 square feet or 0.35 acre. The alignment of the relocated pipeline along each roadway is shown in Figures 1-2, and is as follows:

- Rattlesnake Road – The northern tie-in of the relocated pipe to the Line 1228 is at the northern edge of the western terminus of Rattlesnake Road. The pipe would then run east along the southern edge of the road between the existing Aera Energy pipe rack and the road edge.
- Road 70 – From the intersection of Rattlesnake Road and Road 70, the relocated pipe would run south along the eastern road edge of Road 70 between the Aera Energy pipe rack and the wetland edge. The southern tie-in to the existing Line 1228 is at the eastern road edge of Road 70.

Approximately 3,350' of 12" pipe will be installed above ground on pipe supports along Rattlesnake Road and about 50' will be underground at road crossings. The supports or pipe racks will be located about every 50' on the shoulder of the road. The location of the supports will be designed to avoid the four sets of five drainage culverts that the CSLC intends to install under Rattlesnake Road. Along Road 70, approximately 850' of pipe will be installed above ground on pipe racks and about 450' will be underground at a road crossing and in a work area between a well site and the road.

Installation of the replacement pipeline will include the following actions:

- Stake route and resources;
- Excavate trench and pipe supports;
- Haul and string pipe;
- Bend, lineup, and weld pipe;
- Inspect welding;
- Install cathodic protection;
- Coat field joints;

- Hydrostatic test and clean;
- Isolate the affected pipeline segment;
- Cut the affected segment and tie-in new segment to existing pipeline;
- Backfill of underground sections;
- Clean up the work strip; and
- Restore work areas not affected by the Lowlands Phase I Restoration Project.

The work zone is to be confined to the existing roads, road shoulders, and a small fringe (edge) of wetlands area along Road 70, and the eastern quarter of Rattlesnake Road, and the Rattlesnake Road tie-in location (Figures 3-4). Equipment to be used for the relocation includes pipe stringing trucks, welding trucks, crew trucks, x-ray trucks, side boom tractors, backhoes, trenchers, hydraulic tampers, and water trucks.

Construction Zone. The construction work strip needed to install the pipeline and pipe racks will be 40 ‘ wide. The work strip will be used for construction access and no new roads will be constructed. Along Rattlesnake Road, the 40’ wide work strip will consist of the road and the shoulder of the road. Along Road 70, the work strip will consist of the road, the shoulder of the road, and a small edge of disturbed wetland area immediately adjacent to the shoulder of the road.

Route Staking. Prior to construction, the relocation route will be staked by a licensed surveyor and inspected by SCG monitor personnel and the environmental monitor approved by the CSLC (Rincon Consultants). In areas where sensitive environmental resources are located, the CSLC approved environmental monitor will mark those areas in the field with various colored flags to alert construction crews to avoid them. The staking will remain during construction and will be removed at the end of construction and final site clean up.

Access. All construction equipment and materials for the Project will be transported to the Project site by truck on existing roadways; no new roads will be constructed. Construction of the pipeline in the shoulder of existing roads will require the temporary closure of at least half the road during the construction phase. Warning signs will be placed at strategic locations to warn other workers in the area of the partially closed roadways. Since construction will occur along existing roads, no grading is proposed. No construction of roads and bridges, temporary diversion of water, or stabilization of soil to support heavy equipment is anticipated for the relocation.

Lay Down Areas. Pipeline relocation activities will utilize existing lay down (storage) areas to avoid or minimize impacts to the wetlands. These existing lay down areas are previously disturbed sites that are used to support the normal operation of the oil field.

Refueling and Maintenance. During all phases of Project construction, refueling and lubrication of construction equipment will occur in the lay down area or on the work strip as appropriate. Refueling in the construction area will be from a vehicle-mounted tank to a backhoe or side boom. The fuel transfer will be continuously monitored by an attendant and spill kits will be available at the fuel transfer site to control incidental spills

per SCG BMP 2-03. Construction equipment will be left overnight at the site as feasible, or at other existing off-site storage areas.

Aboveground Pipeline and Supports Installation. Pipe racks or above ground supports will be constructed at approximately 50' intervals to support the aboveground 12" pipeline. Supports will be placed to avoid conflicts with the location of four sets of five culverts that will be located under Rattlesnake Road and all Aera Energy facilities as part of the greater Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration Project. "Potholing" (hand excavations) will be implemented at intersections with AERA facilities to determine the precise location of buried pipelines and utilities so that these can be avoided during construction.

The primary aboveground support structure for the relocated pipe will be a caisson. Caisson installation involves auguring a three-' diameter hole to construct a concrete pier with a steel I-beam imbedded in it. Each concrete pier will be about 5' long with up to 4' buried in the ground. A horizontal I-beam or piece of 4" pipe will be welded on the vertical I-beam imbedded in the pier, completing the support. Alternatively, "sleeper" supports, functionally the size and shape of a parking block, may be used. These supports will lie on a concrete foundation with a maximum footprint of approximately 5' X 5' X 1.5' deep. Total ground surface disturbance associated with each support structure is estimated at 10' X 10'.

The 12" pipe will be transported in 40' to 85' lengths to the pipeline relocation area route by pipe stringing trucks. The trucks will carry the line pipe along the relocation route, and side-boom tractors will unload the joints of pipe and lay them end-to-end beside the pipe racks for future line-up and welding. Lining up the pipe involves the use of line-up clamps to hold pipe sections in position while initial weld passes are made and the alignment is secured. After line-up, additional welding passes will be applied to bring the thickness of the weld to more than the thickness of the pipe. Truck mounted arc welding machines will be used, and will access the pipe from existing roadways.

A pipeline coating will be applied in the field or at the pipe mill before the pipe is delivered to the construction site; however, field coating must be applied to all field weld joints made at the site to provide a continuous protective coating along the pipeline. The coating will protect the pipeline from impacts, abrasion, and corrosion, and will be suitable for use in a wetland environment. The coating may be an epoxy, polken (a resin), synthetic tape and tape primer, or a weather resistant paint. The coating will be applied after the pipe has been welded and radiographically inspected (x-rayed). Tarps will be utilized to capture any falling material, which will then be removed and disposed of appropriately off site.

A detection test will be conducted along the pipe to locate any coating discontinuities, such as thinning, or other mechanical damage, that could allow moisture to reach the pipe. The testing device develops an electrical potential between the pipe and an electrode in contact with the outside of the coating or ground. Pinholes in the coating of a microscopic size can be located using the electrical detector. All coated pipe, including field joints, fittings, and bends, will be tested and repaired, as necessary, before the line is placed on supports or buried.

The pipe will be lifted and placed on supports by two side-boom tractors spaced so that the weight of unsupported pipe will not cause mechanical damage. Cradles with rubber rollers or padded slings will be used so the tractors can place the pipe without damage as they travel along the pipe route. Special welds may be required if the line is obstructed by other pipelines or utilities. These welds usually are made after the pipe has been placed on supports or lowered into a trench, and each weld requires pipe handling for line-up, cutting to exact length, and coating, in addition to normal welding and weld inspection. All field welding will be performed by welders certified and tested to meet SCG welding procedures and to the specifications of all applicable local, State and federal regulations, which include Title 49, Part 192 for natural gas pipelines and the California Public Utilities Commission Regulations on Gas Pipelines, General Order 112E. As a safety precaution, one 20-pound dry chemical unit fire extinguisher will accompany each welding truck on the job.

Weld Inspection. All welds will be 100% radiographically inspected. Radiographs will be recorded and interpreted for acceptability according to applicable regulatory requirements. All rejected welds will be repaired or replaced as necessary and re-radiographed. The X-ray reports as well as a record indicating the location of welds will be retained for the life of the pipeline.

Hydrostatic Testing. In addition to standard mill testing of the pipe, the installed pipe will be hydrostatically tested after construction and before startup pursuant to federal regulations to ensure that the system is capable of operating at the design pressure. A hydrostatic test is conducted by filling the section of pipeline with water and increasing pressure to a pre-determined level, equaling at least 1.5 times the pipeline maximum operating pressure. Such tests are designed to ensure that the pipe, fittings, and weld sections will maintain structural integrity without a failure or leakage under pressure.

Prior to any discharge, hydrostatic testing water will be tested to ensure that the water meets local, State, and federal water quality standards. If necessary, the water will be processed and retested. The source water used for the hydrostatic test will be potable water from the city of Huntington Beach. Discharge of the hydrostatic test water may be on site to the tidal channels or the water will be discharged into Baker tanks and hauled off site for disposal, depending on water quality and specific waste discharge requirements. In the event discharge to tidal channels is pursued, the appropriate approval from RWQCB will be acquired prior to discharge.

Isolation of the Affected Pipeline. The main line valves on each side of the project site will be closed to physically isolate this section of Line 1228 at Rattlesnake Road on the north end and at Road 70 on the south end. Any natural gas remaining in the isolated section will be released, i.e., blown down, to depressurize and evacuate it from the pipe. SCG will notify South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), Huntington Beach Police Department, California Highway Patrol, Caltrans, and Huntington Beach Fire Department, as appropriate, regarding this activity.

Underground Pipeline Section Installation. Along Road 70, the pipe will be undergrounded at two road crossings and a well site. Along Rattlesnake Road, it will be undergrounded where it crosses Rattlesnake Road and ties into the existing pipeline.

"Potholing" (hand excavations) will be implemented in these areas as appropriate to avoid impacting AERA Energy facilities. Because the pipe is subject to heavy loads from oilfield equipment and large cranes at these locations, it will be protected by burying the pipe at least 4' deep from top of pipe.

A 3' wide by 6' deep trench will be excavated for a linear area of approximately 500 feet to install the underground pipe sections. This will result in approximately 1,500 square feet of temporary surface disturbance. The depth of the trench could vary if obstructions or special conditions are encountered. Trenches will be excavated using a backhoe or trencher; however, buried substructures, such as other pipelines, will first be located by hand digging.

Pipeline Padding and Shading. Excavated trench spoils will be used for backfill unless it is determined that they are contaminated or otherwise unsuitable for reuse. In this event, soils will be managed by the USFWS contractor as part of the greater Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration Project. Spoils are screened as the material is returned to the trench using standard construction screening equipment. The pipe will be covered along the sides with 6-inches of native fill free of rocks, and then covered with 12-inches of backfill, free of rocks. This zone is referred to as the pipeline padding and shading zone. In certain areas where damage might occur to pipe coating from abrasive soils, clean sand or earth backfill will be used to pad the pipeline. Any required padding material will be compatible with the area and obtained from local commercial sources. The backfill of the remainder of the trench above the padding will be native material excavated during trenching. The backfilled soil will then be compacted using a backhoe or a hydraulic tamper.

Dust Management. During earthmoving operations, fugitive dust emissions in the construction areas will be controlled by water trucks equipped with fine spray nozzles. Source water for dust control will be potable water from the city of Huntington Beach.

Dewatering. If water is encountered during construction, dewatering of the site will occur by either collecting and disposing of water offsite per local, State, and federal regulations or by releasing water onto adjacent vegetated areas for percolation (BMP measure 3-01). Coordination with Regional Water Quality Control Board (RWQCB) for the appropriate approvals will occur prior to any discharge. NPDES General Permit Order No. R8-2003-0061 (NPDES No. CAG998001), *General Waste Discharge Requirements for Discharges to Surface Waters Which Pose an Insignificant (de minimus) Threat to Water Quality* is anticipated to be used in this event and all conditions associated with this permit will be implemented.

Habitat Compensation and Restoration. Only a small portion of wetland fringe (primarily pickleweed and saltgrass) will be impacted during pipeline relocation activities. This includes approximately 300 linear feet (600 sq. ft) along the eastern edge of the northern terminus of Road 70, approximately 20' X 20' (400 sq. ft.) along the northern edge of the western terminus of Rattlesnake Road and approximately 400 linear feet along the southern edge of the eastern terminus of Rattlesnake Road.

Impacts requiring mitigation associated with the pipeline relocation effort are limited to the area along Road 70 and the western terminus of Rattlesnake Road. Up to 600 square feet of pickleweed may be affected by the pipeline relocation along Road 70 (worst case: 1 support every 50 feet, 300'/50' = 6 supports, each support up to 10' X 10' disturbance = 10' X 10' X 6 supports= 600 sf = 0.01 acre). Up to 400 square feet (20' X 20'<0.01 acre) of pickleweed may be affected at the western terminus of Rattlesnake Road at the tie-in location of the relocated pipe to the existing pipeline. This totals up to 1,000 square feet (0. 02 acre) of temporary pickleweed impacts. Mitigation is not required for pickleweed impacts at the eastern terminus of Rattlesnake Road because these areas have been slated for fill as part of the greater Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration Project in order to remove potential mosquito breeding habitat and to isolate the Aera Energy and City pipe racks to reduce the potential for oil spills to enter the restoration areas.

The CSLC and the resource agencies (USFWS, CCC, RWQCB, USACE) have agreed that potential impacts to approximately 1,000 square feet of pickleweed along Road 70 will be mitigated by a one-time removal of nonnative iceplant at a ratio of 10:1. Based on the proposed relocation Project footprint, SCG has agreed that approximately 10,000 square feet (0.2 acre) of iceplant will be removed using hand tools at locations identified by the USFWS in Cells 11 and 12 of the Lowlands. A qualified biologist approved by the USFWS will determine the actual construction-related impacts to pickleweed and will verify that the iceplant removal was implemented as prescribed.

1.2.2 Pipeline Removal. The relationship of the removal of the existing section of Line 1228 within the Phase I Restoration area has been addressed in Section 1.1, Introduction and Project Location. The removal of a section of Line 1228 is discussed here because the USFWS contractor is anticipated to implement all of the activities below, with the exception that SCG will prepare the existing segment of Line 1228 for removal.

The relocated segment of Line 1228 will have to be installed and operational before the decommissioned section of Line 1228 can be removed. Removal of the existing pipeline and appurtenances will include the following actions:

- Remove existing gas and liquids from the line;
- Excavate where pipe or associated supports are underground at five unpaved road crossings;
- Cut and remove supports and 30- to 80' pipe segments;
- Excavate and remove pier-type supports;
- Remove an 85' long pipe span and associated structures; and
- Remove and dispose of all manmade materials.

The work area for the removal of existing section of Line 1228 is planned to be approximately 25-feet wide to one side of the existing pipe alignment, although

additional areas may be needed as access and site conditions require. Equipment to be used during the pipeline removal include welding trucks, side booms, rubber-tired cranes, pipe trucks, dump trucks, backhoes, loaders, bulldozers, hydraulic braking equipment, water trucks, and jackhammers. Restoration of areas impacted by the pipeline removal will be completed for this activity by the USFWS as part of the Phase I of the Bolsa Chica Lowlands Restoration Project.

Prior to initiating the pipeline removal activity, the new pipeline section will have to be installed and operational. The timing of the removal work under this option will be concurrent with or immediately preceding the Phase 1 Lowlands Restoration Project being performed by the USFWS contractor. The existing pipeline route is located in an area planned to be flooded to a depth of 7 feet below mean sea level. Therefore disturbance associated with the pipeline segment removal is a component of the more extensive Phase 1 Lowlands Restoration Project.

Removing Existing Gas and Liquids. After Line 1228 has been "blown-down" (natural gas removed) and the relocation Project completed, the remaining section of the isolated line will be checked for the presence of any liquid. If liquid is found, it will be collected in temporary traps installed at each end of the line section, containerized, and disposed of as required by law. The operations to remove the pipe, pipe supports, and any other related items will begin only after the gas has been evacuated and any liquids removed. As noted above, SCG will notify South Coast Air Quality Management District (AQMD), Huntington Beach Police Department, California Highway Patrol, Caltrans, and Huntington Beach Fire Department, as appropriate, regarding this activity.

Pipeline and Supports Removal. Efforts to remove pipe, pipe supports, and other related items will be done by the USFWS contractor in a manner to minimize disturbance. Existing roads and disturbed areas will be utilized to the maximum extent feasible; however, a work strip 25-feet wide adjacent to the pipeline will also be required to facilitate the removal of all manmade facilities. The amount of equipment, number of workers, and the size of excavations will be consistent with the existing permits for Phase I of the Lowlands Restoration Project.

When excavations are required, the excavated material will be used as backfill if appropriate. As discussed above, the excavated material is contaminated or otherwise not suitable for backfill, it will be managed in accordance with the Aera Energy/USFWS clean-up plan. Soil borings will be monitored by a qualified USFWS contractor who will visually inspect the removed soils for adverse staining signs, detectable odors, and using a photoionization detector [PID]. Any such soils suspected of contamination will be segregated and removed for proper management by the USFWS contractor in accordance with federal, State, and local requirements and disposed of at a facility authorized to accept it. Non-contaminated soils not suitable for backfill will also be managed by the USFWS contractor and used for other purposes. If additional backfill material is required, such as at a road crossing outside of wetland areas, clean material compatible with the area will be imported from outside the wetland.

A side boom, welding trucks, and pipe trucks will be used to remove the existing aboveground pipe. Workers will travel along the 25' wide work strip next to the pipe and

cut the pipe into manageable lengths, roughly 30' to 40' sections or 80' sections, using an acetylene torch or mechanical cutters. Asbestos wrapping is known to occur only along areas where repairs have been previously conducted. If asbestos wrapping is encountered, it will be handled as required by health and safety regulations prior to initiating cutting operations. The side boom will then lift these pipe sections off the supports and onto pipe trucks (i.e., a tractor with a flat bed trailer) for removal from the wetland area, either to a lay down area or offsite salvage disposal facility.

The existing above ground section of pipe to be removed lies on an H-type support with two concrete piers each. Each concrete pier is generally about 3' in diameter and about 5' long, with a 2" vertical steel pipe imbedded in it. The piers are thought to be buried in the ground between 2-4'deep, but burial could be deeper. A horizontal piece of 2" diameter pipe is welded between the vertical pipes imbedded in each pier, completing the "H". The main pipeline rests on this horizontal support member. After the gas pipeline is removed, the horizontal support member will be cut with a torch. Equipment will then pull each concrete pier out of the ground separately along with the related steel pipe.

Any piers that are deeply imbedded in the ground may not be able to be pulled directly from the ground using the side boom. These piers will be separately dislodged from the ground with a loader or bulldozer, then lifted with a side-boom and loaded onto a dump truck for removal from the wetland area.

No excavation work should be required to remove the aboveground pipe and H-type pipe supports. If any excavation is required, it will be minimized and done with backhoe style equipment. After removal of the supports, any open cavities will be filled-in by pushing excavated materials back into the cavity, or left open for further excavation associated with the construction of the first area to be flooded and the work area cleaned up. Returning the site to the existing contours is not required as the greater area is to be concurrently or subsequently excavated and graded as part of Phase I of the restoration of the Bolsa Chica Lowlands.

Lay Down Areas. Lay down areas used for the relocation activities will also be used for the pipeline removal activities. Piers and other pipeline materials will be transported to the lay down areas, consolidated and loaded on large trucks for disposal outside of the Bolsa Chica Lowlands area as determined by the USFWS contractor in accordance with all laws and regulations.

Dewatering. If water is encountered during trenching, dewatering of the site will occur by either collecting and disposing of water offsite per local, State, and federal regulations or by releasing water onto adjacent vegetated areas for percolation (BMP measure 3-01). Coordination with RWQCB for the appropriate approvals has been completed for the Lowlands Restoration Project. The April 23, 2002, RWQCB permit is anticipated to be used in this event and all conditions associated with this permit will be implemented.

Pipe Span and Cable Supports Removal. An existing 85' pipe span, along with the related support towers and foundations, will be removed with the use of the rubber-tired crane, loader, side boom, and dump truck. The pipe will be cut on each side of the

span with a torch, pulled across the cable supports, cut into roughly 40' sections, and loaded onto trucks. The cable supports, towers, and concrete foundations will then be lifted out by the side boom and rubber tired crane. These items will be handled in the same manner as the pipe supports described above. Due to their size, the concrete foundations may have to be broken up with hydraulic braking equipment and jackhammers prior to their removal. If so, care will be taken to contain, collect, and remove all concrete from the Lowland area via use of tarps and other appropriate measures. A backhoe will be used if any excavation or backfilling is required to remove the span.

The pipe will be excavated at all buried road crossings and removed. There are five buried road crossings and each one is unpaved and about 50 feet long. The amount of material required at each one is approximately 30 cubic yards. The excavation will be done with a rubber-tired backhoe or similar equipment. The excavated material will be used as backfill, unless it is determined to contain hazardous level of contaminants or the area requires further excavation. In this event, soil will be managed in accordance with the Aera Energy/USFWS clean-up plan and hauled offsite and disposed of per local, State and federal regulations. Any additional material required for backfill will be clean material compatible with the area and will be imported from outside the Lowlands. Any casing pipe, wires, etc., will also be removed during the excavation work. All pipe will be loaded onto trucks for removal from the wetland area. Any pipes, wires, or other associated materials that are removed will be disposed of outside the wetland area as determined by the USFWS contractor, in accordance with applicable laws and regulations. Any coating on the pipe will be left on the pipe and removed at the storage site, if required. The pipe, with relatively little salvage value, will ultimately be sold for scrap.